Administrations. The difference between the return to the farmers and the retail prices for various vegetables and fruits depend on various factors such as the type of commodity, its perishability, distance from markets etc.

Setting up of Commodity Exchanges

2627. SHRI JANADHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Commodity Exchanges in the country as part of its proposal to reform the commodities markets, whereby farmers would be free to sell their foodgrains anywhere they want to; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortfall in Sugar Production

2628. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual sugar production is expected to fall to12.5 million tonnes during the current sugar season October, 2004 to September, 2005;

(b) if so, whether it is against 40 million tonnes recorded during the last year;

(c) if so, whether India would go out for imports as the shortfall in output will put pressure on prices of domestic level;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the shortage of sugar in the country; and

(e) whether this shortage has pushed the prices of sugar on an increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The sugar production in 2004-05 sugar season (October, 2004 to September 2005) was 13.0 million tonnes (Provisional) as against 14.0 million tonnes in the sugar season 2003-04.

(c) and (d) In order to augment the domestic availability of sugar stocks for the sugar year 2004-05 factoring in for normative reserve stocks of 3 months's consumption as on 1.10.2005, besides utilization of idle capacity of the sugar mills by providing the inputs (raw sugar) for manufacture of sugar and availability of sugar at reasonable price to the consumers, the Government facilitated import of raw sugar under Advance License Scheme as per extant Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09.

(e) The retail price of sugar remained firm in the sugar season 2004-05.

SDF loan to Karnataka

2629. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by the State Government of Karnataka for sanctioning on amount of Rs. 50.50 crores from the Sugar Development Fund for setting up a 10 MW Co-Gen unit and a 45 KL per day distillery;

(b) the present status of consideration of this proposal; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The documents were found to be incomplete and the State Government of Karnataka was requested for the same. Applications can be considered only when complete documents are submitted by the Sugar mill/State Government.